

BELLS OF "MERRIE ENGLAND."

Peals Still Rung Have Significance From Olden Times.

In some parts of the country the bell which tolls the old year out is called the "Old Lad's Passing Bell." In western England the bells peal merrily on "Oak Apple Day," to celebrate the escape of King Charles at Boscombe. Another bell, rung at the beginning of Lent, is known as "Pancake Bell," because in old-time phrase, it "summons people away from their pancakes to confession and fasting."

A lively peal of bells is often rung at the end of the Sunday morning service and is called "Pudding Bell." Perhaps its purpose is to announce to the stay-at-homes that service is over and that the pudding may come out of the oven.

Every night at five minutes past 9, "Great Tom," the great bell of Christ church college at Oxford, booms out its ponderous note 101 times. This particular number was chosen in accordance with the number of students at the foundation of the college.—Youth's Companion.

The Wife as a Banker.

Women are savers rather than spenders. And when they spend they spend to good advantage. A dollar in a woman's hands goes twice as far as a dollar in the hands of a man. If you want to save money let your wife be the banker. This is for the man who gets wages out of a job and for the man who gets a salary out of a position. This is for the workingman, whether he labors with his hands or toils with his brain. This is for the married man and for the man about to be married. It is for men in every class of life and every walk of life. It is the best advice for the average man everywhere.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

American Safety Devices.

In spite of the fact that the United States lead the world in the invention of safety devices it has been shown that we stand first in the record of accidents. The proportion of miners killed here is nearly three times as great as in France and about double that in other European countries. For every five men killed by accident in this country there are only three in all the nations of Europe combined. It is claimed that with all our quickness in inventing the things that make for safety we are slow to adopt them, and that many American inventions of this kind find their first recognition in Europe.—Hartford, Conn., Times.

Salt and Civilization.

Salt has had much influence in shaping the civilization and exploration of the world. It is believed by many that the oldest trade routes were created for the salt traffic. This was certainly the case with the caravan routes in Libya and the Sahara, while the mines of North India were the center of a large trade before the time of Alexander. Salt, too, has played a considerable part in the distribution of man. He was forced to migrate to places where it could be obtained. This brought him to the seashore, where he gained his ideas of maritime commerce. Lastly, the preservative effects of salt on flesh food made long oceanic voyages possible and thus opened up the world to commerce and civilization.

AMMUNITION FOR THE PASTOR.

Sinners Alone Need Have Feared Contents of This Box.

The Rev. Edward Lloyd Jones, a Manchester, England, minister, tells a story of his experience in Fenian days. He was traveling from a Welsh village to Brecon, and had with him a strong wooden box filled with heavy theological books. At Shrewsbury the detectives who were on the lookout for explosive machines and the like suspected this heavy box and word was sent on to Brecon. When the young minister stepped out of the train he was astonished to find a sergeant and several constables awaiting him. "I think you have a box with you," said the sergeant. "Quite right," said the preacher, who began to scent a joke. Out came the box and its weight excited fresh suspicion about its contents. "This is your box?" "Yes." "It contains ammunition?" "It does." "Very well, consider yourself in charge. Open the box." The company stood away while the sergeant found it contained nothing more explosive than Adam Clarke's "Theology" he expressed his indignation freely to the minister. All that he got back was the soft answer: "Why, bless my soul, man, you asked if the box contained ammunition. That is my ammunition. I am a Methodist parson, and that's what I shoot with."

Hard and Fast Rule Impossible.

It is surprising how many people there are in this world who want to increase the discomforts of life. There is always bobbing up some professor or propagandist who informs us that everything we have ever done is wrong and that the only road to physical salvation is to follow his own schedule. And now comes a man from Chicago—where they know more things which aren't so than in any city in the world—and tells us that we must not eat soup, pie, pancakes, puddings and cold meats, except ham, and apparently make our principal diet spinach, asparagus, lettuce and onions. Probably most persons eat more than is good for them and it is certain that, generally speaking, food is not well cooked. But to lay down a law for the human race is absurd.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Teal Slip Out of Hunters' Reach.

Teal leave the water with astonishing smartness, and if the shooting is in brush the gunner is likely to be reminded of the thunderous grouse, by the way those brown bantams, the blue-wings, slip out of reach of his sudden storm of lead. And how they can go when they discover what their danger is! I have stood in the cat-tails by a pond at evening when the teal were coming in to roost and have seen them burst into a speed, upon detecting me, that required a 20-foot swinging lead to stop at 40 yards. They are handsome birds, too, these teal, and gross is the man that can chuck them in his shooting coat without a glance of admiration at the trim lines of them.—Lynn Bogue Hunt, in "Shooting Ducks on Middle Western Ponds," in The Outing Magazine.

More Than One Beantown.

"Boston?"
"That's the only beantown, isn't it?"
"Well, there's Lima, Ohio."

POINTS OF THE PILES BURNED.

Remarkable Case of Spontaneous Ignition Recently Noted.

A remarkable case of spontaneous ignition that recently occurred in erecting the walls of the new Rotterdam quay is related by the Technische Dundschau.

Rams had been in use there for some time, which by 180 or 200 strokes per minute caused a steady advance of the piles. The foundation was such that the pillars had to be driven through the quicksand down to the solid ground.

On withdrawing some piles, the points of the latter were found, owing to the enormous friction, to have been charred entirely and heated to such a point as to begin burning spontaneously on coming in contact with the air; nor could iron shoes prevent this spontaneous ignition.

When leaving the piles in the ground this ignition would not result in any damage, the charring remaining confined to the surface, and the heat being rapidly carried away in the moist surroundings.

JUST MAKING A FRESH START.

Boy Well Knew Bishop Wasn't Near End of Sermon.

The late Bishop Eastburn of Massachusetts was a man of very imposing appearance, and when robed in his big-sleeved canonicals gave the impression of sailing under full canvas. In the pulpit he had a habit of drawing himself up at intervals, with chest raised and head thrown back, which gave him a very pompous air.

A little boy of Newburyport, not fully inured to long sermons, and wearying under his heavy periods, mildly suggested to his mother that he would like to "cut the rest of it," but she tried to beguile him with the assurance that the good man was just ready to stop, when he eagerly replied: "Oh, no, mamma, he isn't, 'cause he's just blowed himself up again."

About Advice.

"One of the biggest mistakes in life," said Snurgeon, "next to believing that sor folk know better than one's self, is not believing that others do know better." The difficulty in getting good advice is just the difficulty in finding who is really clever enough to give it, and who is interested in one enough to give it, or honest enough to give it. The man who will not ask his way often finds himself in a humiliating position. Advice lightly and recklessly given stamps the giver as unscrupulous, just as advice lightly sought stamps the seeker as a fool.

Nature's Panoramic Display.

A marvelous display of atmospheric reflection peculiar to the Alps was witnessed the other day by passengers in the Paris-Frankfort express. Shortly after leaving Metz a wonderful panorama developed in the horizon on the western side. The sun seemed to light up the whole Alpine chain, the great mass of Mont Blanc stood out clearly marked, its sides covered with snow and its glaciers reflecting the sunbeams. At one moment the lake of Geneva was visible, its water tinged a greenish blue. The mirage faded only at sunset, as the train neared Faulquemont. It had lasted about twenty minutes.

GYPSIES HOARDED FACE SOAP.

Officers of Vessel Surprised and Gladly Furnish Stuff.

Cleanliness is not a characteristic of the children of Romany, but this fact did not enter the minds of the officers of the Pacific Mail company's steamer San Jose on the last trip when they acquiesced to the request for soap each day, says the San Francisco Call.

It was not until the steamer reached the disembarking point that those connected with the vessel learned that they had fallen victims to the nomads. The soap which had been given the individuals each day was carefully hidden away, and on leaving the steamer they were burdened with cakes of soap accumulated during the trip.

The gypsies, numbering about twenty-five, boarded the steamer at Ancon and traveled to Mazatlan. They were an uncleanly lot, and when they washed no soap was used. This attracted the attention of an officer, and he handed a bar of soap to them.

As soon as his back was turned the piece was secreted. Their avarice was now aroused, and each day they would apply for soap. When the gypsies asked for it it was given without a question. The storekeeper and his superiors were in blissful ignorance of what was going on, but when the gypsies were marched off the vessel they were seen to be carrying huge bundles, which proved to be the soap of the Pacific Mail company.

ANCIENT BEDS TOO SUMPTUOUS.

Beautiful and Imposing They Were. But Not Comfortable.

In olden times beds were very sumptuous articles of furniture, and the gift of one in a will represented in many cases a large sum of money, the bedstead with its fittings frequently having cost several hundred pounds. In Elizabeth's time and earlier, bedsteads were imposing creations of oak, richly carved in all manner of quaint device, with, perhaps, a grinning satyr peering from behind a pillar, sufficiently grotesque to murder the slumbers of the most somnolent. Those were the days, too, of heavy silken hangings, valances and quilts, all richly embroidered in silk and gold and silver thread with heavy bullion fringes to add weight and majesty. Such beds may be seen in some of the valuable collections at the museums and at English country seats, such as Warwick castle and other notable old places. To modern eyes they compare very unfavorably, despite their intrinsic value, with the simple, dainty beds of modern times.

Arctic Expedition Amusements.

In the British arctic expedition of 1875 one of the chaplains had a file of the London Times twenty years old containing the Crimean war reports. One copy was given out to each ship daily; the officers had it first, then it went to the fore-castle, and soon every one was as keen about the news as if the war had been proceeding. The clergyman in control of the press was besought to issue an evening edition, and when St. astopol was about to be taken excitement ran so high that the newspaper office, a locker, was almost stormed. The editor, however, was firm, and continued with his daily issue, the interest being kept up to the end of the expedition.